

THE TRANSCRIPT.

ST. ALBANS.

Friday, Oct. 22, 1864.

NATIONAL UNION TICKET.

For President,

ABRAHAM LINCOLN,

OF ILLINOIS.

For Vice President,

ANDREW JOHNSON,

OF TENNESSEE.

For Presidential Electors,

DANIEL KELLOGG of Brattleboro,
ALBERT L. CATTAN of Burlington.1st District—SARAH M. DODD of Rutland,
2d " " BELLEVILLE of Cavendish,
3d " " JOHN W. STODOLSKY of Craftsbury.

Presidential Election, November 8th, 1864.

Eleven Days More.

On Tuesday, November 8th, 1864, eleven days from date hereof, the presidential election will be held. On that day will the great question involving the perpetuity of free government and free institutions be decided. The Republic cannot survive a dishonorable peace. This Republic, with peace at any terms, would be a bye-word and a hiss the world over. What will you do, freemen of Vermont? You will rally from the hills, the valleys, and the mountain tops, and vote for the Union candidates. Not a freeman will stay at home; not one, we trust. The man who loves his business or his ease more than his country's cause, is but a fractional part of a freeman. Arouse, then, friends of right. Organize. Canvass every school district. Bring every citizen out to the polls. Let Vermont show a clean and noble record. Only eleven days are left in which to work and arouse the freemen of this commonwealth, preparatory to the grand struggle on the 8th of November. Let no man say that he will stay at home, buy and sell and get gain on election day, because the State of Vermont is safe for Lincoln and Johnson. That is only a poor excuse for laziness, indifference, or a want of zeal for the Union cause.

In the days left—remember! there are only eleven, and their sands will soon run out—organize. Be up and doing. By earnest zeal and well directed effort, relying upon the nobleness of the cause, press on. Looking upward, press on prayerfully and manfully to a glorious political victory.

And beside all this, the duty of giving to the administration the moral support of an overwhelming majority is obvious. The value of our political success is doubled, if it appears that the opposition, rallied on the Chicago platform, is not only in a minority but also a weak one, and that the administration, in its military measures, has the hearts of the people to back it. We trust our people will let it appear plainly that they are resolute, confident, and devoted to the support of the Government. That assurance which an overwhelming majority for Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson secures will be a damper upon the hopes of those who have taken up arms against the best form of government extant.

Eleven days more in which to work out our political salvation! Eleven days more in which to put down forever the idea that the people of America are not competent to govern themselves. Eleven days more are left for action—only eleven days! The time is short. Let us press onward and upward.

Armed Defence of the Frontier.

The Governor, upon receiving reliable tidings of the doings of the brigands at St. Albans, took immediate measures for the protection of the frontier. He empowered Lieut. Col. Reuben C. Benton, of Hydepark, late of the 11th Vermont, who was commissioned as captain of company D, 5th Vermont Regiment, Sept. 5, 1861, to organize Provisional Home Guards at different points on the frontier exposed to the predatory incursions of the freebooters from Canada. Col. Benton was made Colonel of the Provisional Forces, and aided by Major John L. Barstow, the member from Shelburne by the way, immediately organized provisional home companies in Franklin county—doing this important work with rare dispatch, prudence, and to universal satisfaction. Col. Benton proceeded with an old friend to East Alburgh and Alburgh Springs to organize a company there, but the action of the citizens of Alburgh on Friday, October 21st, elsewhere noticed, had been in advance of his visit. Col. Benton thought it unnecessary that he should interfere with a movement so auspiciously begun, to which decision he was aided by the advantage of the advice of Messrs. H. H. Reynolds, Jed P. Ladd, David Marvin and others of Alburgh.

The organized provisional companies in Franklin county are organized as follows:

Highgate, 40 muskets. James Hal-

loway, Capt.; John A. Fitch, 1st Lieut.; Marcus Best, 2d Lieut.

East Highgate, 40 muskets. Oscar S. Rixford, Capt.; Alvah H. Spear, 1st Lieut.; George W. Hogaboom, 2d Lieut.

Sheldon, 40 muskets. Alfred H. Keith, Capt.; Samuel N. Hunter, 1st Lieut.; Homer G. Hubbell, 2d Lieut.

Enosburgh Falls, 40 muskets. Ephraim S. Leach, Capt.; Hazen B. Ladd, 1st Lieut.; Daniel B. Stetson, 2d Lieut.

East Berkshire, 40 muskets. Edward H. Smith, Capt.; Henry T. Sawyer, 1st Lieut.; Joseph P. Smith, 2d Lieut.

Richford, 60 muskets. Lyman H. Smith, Capt.; George W. Gilson, 1st Lieut.; Lucius H. Goff, 2d Lieut.

West Berkshire, 40 muskets. Chester W. Searles, Capt.; Neri W. Holmes, 1st Lieut.; Merrill J. Hill, 2d Lieut.

St. Albans, 100 muskets. Louis McD. Smith, Capt.; George H. Kirtledge, 1st Lieut.; Lucius F. Kimpton, 2d Lieut.

St. Albans Cavalry, 64 horses. John W. Newton, Capt.; H. Chester Parsons, 1st Lieut.; F. Stewart Stramhan, 2d Lieut.

Swanton, 60 muskets. Officers not reported.

It will be observed that, where practicable, experienced officers have been selected to drill and perfect the Home Guards in their manual exercises. Arms have already been obtained and the work has already begun. The hearty co-operation of all law-abiding citizens has been successfully invoked and secured in aid of this branch of duty which was so auspiciously inaugurated by Col. Benton and Major Barstow, under the direction of the Governor of the State.

The St. Albans Raid.

In addition to the particulars of the transactions of the marauders in St. Albans, Oct. 19th, which we gave in the last number of the Transcript, we compile from various sources, chiefly from the *Burlington Times*, whose editor, George H. Bigelow, Esq., has been unwearied in his efforts to give early and reliable particulars to the anxious public, other circumstances and facts which form a tolerably authentic history of the doings of those robbers and murderers who figured in what will figure in history as "the St. Albans Raid."

The raiders had been lounging about the different hotels in St. Albans for several days prior to the 19th of October. Some secured lodgings at the "St. Albans House," some at the "American" and others at the "Tremont House." The leader calling himself T. B. Clyde, appeared first at the Tremont House, October 10th—receiving visitors at his room on the 15th—and again October 18th. He appeared like a gentleman in his manners and address, and read the bible to his companions in his room, one evening, so loud as to attract the notice of a lady boarder in the house. The lady was quite sure that such civil and pious young men were connected with some theological school. The raiding party numbered from twenty-five to thirty young men—all well armed with pistols of a new and effective pattern—some having one and some four of these weapons. They were well dressed and intelligent looking men.

After dinner these persons walked along Main street, occasionally in groups and carelessly passed the different banks of the town. After awhile they stationed a patrol in the streets and a simultaneous attack upon each of the three banks was made about quarter past 3 o'clock, P. M. Four or five entered each bank, while a number of the party remained on guard outside, to prevent detection and interference. Several persons in the vicinity were ordered away from the vicinity of the Banks on penalty of being shot, and four guards with a revolver in each hand kept sentry over them. In this manner the robbers had an opportunity for wholesale robbery which they improved.

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF ST. ALBANS. This bank on the corner of Main and Fairfield streets has just been started, with several of our wealthiest citizens as directors. Mr. George G. Blaisdell noticed the coming of suspicious characters towards the bank, and started from his store to warn Mr. Albert Sowles, the cashier. He was prevented from doing so and had a scuffle with one of the raiders, in which the robber fared badly. His comrade came to the scene and threatened to blow out Mr. Blaisdell's brains if he did not desist and cross the road to the Green. This Mr. Blaisdell reluctantly did, and was there kept a prisoner with several others. In the meanwhile they entered the National Bank, called upon the cashier to hand over the keys of the safe and what money and bonds he had in custody. Mr. Sowles was compelled on pain of death to comply with his requirement, and was then marched over to the Green. The amount of loss by this

bank was \$52,650, including treasury bonds and legal tender notes.

THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BANK.

The Franklin County Bank was also entered about the same time. Marcus W. Beardsley, Esq., the cashier, was present; but Mr. Francis W. Houghton, the teller, was absent in Plattsburgh. Mr. Jackson Clark, a wood-sawyer was in the bank when it was entered by four well dressed strangers. One of them said to Clark "You are my prisoner. If you move an inch, I'll blow your brains out"—at the same time presenting a horse pistol. Another then addressed the cashier in this wise: "We are confederate soldiers. We have come to rob your bank and burn your town. There are a hundred of us here. You must keep quiet and hand over all your money." These pointed remarks were followed by the showing of shooting irons which were such potent arguments, that Mr. Beardsley was compelled to comply with their demands. The bank was then robbed of its contents, and Messrs. Beardsley and Clark were locked in the vault, and the robbers thereupon made their exit. After remaining in that terribly close vault half an hour, their cries for help were answered, and they were released after great mental and physical suffering—especially by Mr. Beardsley, whose health is somewhat precarious. The bank suffered severely. Their loss is \$85,000, of which \$75,000 was in their own bills, stored away preparatory to being burned by the directors.

THE ST. ALBANS BANK.

This bank is located in the private house of Henry Seymour, Esq., immediately south of the Kingman block. About the same time as the raid on the other banks, two or three men entered the bank. Bradley Barlow, Esq., the Cashier, was absent attending the legislature, as Representative from St. Albans. Mr. Cyrus N. Bishop was in the banking room, and Martin A. Seymour, Esq., assistant cashier, was in the directors' room adjoining. The strangers approached Mr. Bishop, and presenting a brace of pistols, began their work of robbery. Mr. Bishop ran to the room where Mr. Seymour was and attempted to bolt the door. The robbers were too quick for him, and forcing the door, Mr. Bishop was seized by the throat, and forcibly taken out, and Mr. Seymour had a rebel argument in the shape of a loaded pistol, presented to his ear. Both were then required to take the oath of allegiance to the Southern Confederacy, and not to divulge the proceedings of the robbers for two hours. The leader of the gang remarked after this wise: "We are here by order of Gen. Early. Your soldiers have been to the Shenandoah Valley and burned our houses and destroyed our property. We are here to pay back in the same coin."

The bank lost in all \$73,500—of which \$35,500 was in their own bills, \$10,000 in bills of other banks, \$20,000 in legal tender notes, and \$5,000 in U. S. demand notes.

THE TREASURY OF HOUSES &c. &c.

After accomplishing these robberies, the raiders took eleven horses from Frank S. Field, and five from W. & E. D. Fuller. Messrs. Z. Clark and William Eaton, each lost a pair of valuable horses. The robbers took horses from the wagons hitched in the streets, stole a saddle and blanket from Messrs. Beardsley, and after mounting the horses as best they could, started on their trip to Canada. Mr. L. Bingham was slightly wounded in attempting to prevent one of the robbers from taking a horse hitched in front of the stove warehouse of McGowan Brothers. Mr. Mr. Collins H. Huntington while passing by the American House near the Franklin County Bank, was ordered to go to the Public Green. Not seeing the necessity of this order, he refused to go; and thereupon the brigand shot him in the side; the pistol shot passing through it about seven inches, grazing a rib which the ball seemed to follow. Mr. Huntington has recovered so as to be able to ride about, and the escape was very great; the variation of a half inch in the course of the ball might have proved fatal.

MURDER OF MR. MORRISON.

As the raiders rode along towards the North, Mr. E. D. Fuller stood near Mr. Paul's shoe shop, with Messrs. E. J. Morrison and W. P. Davis. Mr. Fuller, who had been robbed, had an old pistol which he tried to fire at the robbers. They turned around, fired towards him, and hit Mr. Morrison, wounding him in the bowels in a fatal manner. Mr. Morrison was shortly after his wound, taken to the drug store of L. L. Dutcher & Son, and thence to the American House, where he died on Friday morning, Oct. 21st. The robbers fired towards the entrance of the Vermont Transcript office. The publisher was standing there with the wife of our neighbor, Mr. Henry J. Watson. The ball missed the publisher and struck Mrs. Watson's shawl and was lodged in its ample folds. Mr. Sylvester G. Field and had a ball shot

through his hat, and several others had narrow escapes.

Ball holes can be seen in different parts of Main street, on the stores, trees, &c. The raiders proceeded towards Sheldon Creek. Mr. Moses Goddard, the well known stage-driver, met them about half way to Sheldon Creek village. The leader of the gang ordered them to open right and left and let the stage pass on. Mr. G. had \$12,000 in bank bills which he was carrying to one of the banks. Fortunately the robbers knew nothing of this. Mr. G. supposed the mounted men were on their way to the Richford races.

THE RAIDERS IN SHELTON. The raiders had a skirmish with Mr. Marsh Chadwick, at the hotel formerly kept by Lyman Draper, Esq., and did not succeed in robbing him as they intended. After crossing the Sheldon Creek bridge it was set on fire in several places. They went to Major Keith's barn—took one of his horses, set fire to the hay in the barn and skedaddled. Fortunately the fire was discovered before serious damage ensued. They selected Major Keith's best horse, and the hired man, a quick witted Irishman, as the story goes, remarked "Ye wouldn't fail! be either taking a team horse, wud ye? This other one wud answer ye better, shure!" The raider took the man pointed out in the stable by the Irishman, and found to his sorrow, after riding him awhile, that he had made a bad mistake in not taking the valuable animal he had first intended, rather than the old pig the Irishman suggested. The horse soon failed, and his rider was obliged to leave him and make his way on foot, until he could steal another one on the road.

The assassins pursued their course in an easterly direction, and missed the "narrow bridge" leading to B. Fish's hotel. They went on to East Sheldon, and after crossing Missesqui river, went to Enosburgh Falls, thence to the village of West Berkshire and Freighsburg, C. E.

Before leaving St. Albans these rascals attempted to burn the thickly settled part of the village. The water closets of the American House were found to be on fire on Wednesday evening—a phosphoric preparation somewhat akin to Greek fire, having been scattered there; but upon the application of grease it was fortunately extinguished. A similar attempt was made upon the store of Victor Atwood, Esq., but it was not burned.

This is a brief and, of course, imperfect narrative of the main circumstances connected with the raid in St. Albans on the 19th of October. It was a bold scheme—well planned and artfully carried out, at a time when many of our leading business men were absent from town, and on a day when but little resistance could have been made to such invasion by persons who were not accustomed to the use of fire arms.

THE PERSECUTION OF THE ROBBERIES. After the people of St. Albans had recovered in a measure from their astonishment and excitement, active attempts were made to pursue the robbers. Capt. George P. Conger and Capt. John W. Newton, with some mounted men, went in hot pursuit about an hour and a half after the robbers had started. Without going into details, it is sufficient to remark that the raiders were overtaken at Freighsburg, Stanbridge, Waterloo and West Farmham, and in due time several of them were arrested by the Canadian authorities.

To the active exertions of Hon. Asa Owen Aldis of St. Albans, Judge of the Supreme Court of Vermont, is the public greatly indebted for the adoption of speedy legal measures by the authorities of the Province of Canada.

Judge Aldis took the evening train on Wednesday for Montreal, where he arrived at midnight. He called at once on Vice-consul David Thurston, and went with him to see William Lamotte, Esq., Chief of the city Police Force and, by his advice, applied to the Hon. Charles Joseph Couriel, Presiding Justice of the sessions of the Peace, whose criminal jurisdiction extends over all the districts bordering on Vermont. Judge Couriel was aroused at 2 o'clock at night, and acted with willingness and promptness—sending Mr. O'Leary and Chief Constable Laughlin, to accompany Judge Aldis to St. Johns. Judge Couriel and Mr. Lamotte engaged to go to St. Johns by next train and give further directions to the police stationed there and along the frontier.

The arrest in Canada of sixteen of these robbers has been made by direction of Judge Couriel and by policemen acting under him. Anson Knapp, Esq., of Freighsburg, a Justice of the Peace, has been especially active and effective in the matter of arresting these brigands in his vicinity. All needful affidavits, complaints and warrants have been issued against all of these robbers in Franklin County, Vermont, where they will be brought

for trial, in case they are surrendered by the Canadian authorities under the Ashburton Treaty.

The raiders, who have been arrested and lodged in the district jail at St. Johns, are C. W. Wallace, Charles Swegen, Bennett Young, T. Tevis, Dudley Moore, George Scott, Samuel Gregg, J. McGrouthy, James Doty, S. E. Lakey, C. P. Bruce, S. R. Cullen, Marcus Spruce.

They are confined in separate cells and not allowed to confer with one another. Some of them seem to have an abundance of gold and it is said, the confederate agents have engaged distinguished counsel who will use every means to obtain their discharge. The sole defence of the prisoners will be that the raid was an act of war and was authorized by the Confederate Government!! The United States Government is represented by experienced lawyers from Vermont, with whom Bernard Devlin, Esq., of Montreal is associated. Mr. Devlin stands high as a criminal lawyer, and has been successfully practising at the Montreal Bar since October, 1847.

THE TRIAL, COUNSEL &c. Messrs. J. J. Abbott and W. Kerr are the main counsel for the prisoners. Messrs. Cameron, of Toronto, and Gray of St. Johns, New Brunswick are advisory counsel. The banks in St. Albans are represented by Messrs. Elson and Rand, Dewey and E. A. Sowles. Messrs. B. Devlin of Montreal and George F. Edmunds of Burlington still continue chief counsel on behalf of the Federal authorities. George N. Sanders, the notorious dough face, is there at Monnets hotel acting with "outside influences" on behalf of the prisoners. F. Godeschal Johnson, Esq., of Montreal, acts for the Crown. He is a gentleman of rare eloquence and culture, and his colleague is Mr. Edward Carr, of Montreal. The direct examination of Cyrus N. Bishop, Teller of the St. Albans Bank, occupied all day on Monday. Several of the prisoners were identified by Messrs. M. A. Seymour, Albert Sowles and M. W. Beardsley, Tuesday and Wednesday and Thursday the testimony to establish the murder and horse stealing will be brought forward. This will occupy the residue of this week, and our report of the proceedings will be continued hereafter as the case is one of great national importance and unusual local interest.

We learn that about \$85,000 have been recovered and identified. The bills are thus distinguished: St. Albans Bank, \$28,021; Franklin County Bank, \$34,727; First National Bank, \$10,800; together with \$15,800 in bonds and about \$4,000 in promissory notes. The horses stolen have all been recovered by their owners. Some were obtained as far off as Waterloo, Canada.

The action of Judge Couriel and of all the officers in the Provincial Government who have acted in this matter has been such as to challenge our respect and gratitude. We confess that from what we have heard privately and publicly we feel confident that the decision of the case will be in unison with the principles which lie at the root of the Ashburton treaty.

The question, however, which trembles on every man's lip is, Will these assassins and robbers be surrendered to the authorities of Vermont as fugitives from justice? The *Burlington Free Press* strikes the key-note of popular sentiment when it answers this question in these terms:

"The question now most discussed hereabouts is, whether the Canadian authorities will hand over the robbers. We take it for granted that they will. These men have been guilty of the crimes of murder, robbery and arson—crimes specified in the Ashburton treaty, by the terms of which parties guilty of those crimes are to be delivered over, on proper requisition. The Provincial or British authorities cannot take the ground that the war has abrogated that treaty, or that the fact that a man avows himself a rebel against our government, takes him under the provisions of that treaty. Nor, even if it was not, can the Canadian authorities permit such warlike expeditions to be fitted out in their territory, and to make it their asylum from capture and reprisal.

If they do, the sooner open war is declared with our Northern neighbors, the better.

Death of Chief Justice Taney.

Chief Justice Roger Brooke Taney is no more. He died at Washington October 12, 1864, in the 88th year of his age. Aside from the prejudice which the Dred Scott decision has engendered in the public mind at the North, and especially in New England, this announcement of his death, in the words of the *National Intelligencer*, "will carry sorrow to the hearts of the people among all who held him in reverence for the high qualities he brought to the discharge of his duties at the head of the supreme judicial tribunal of the country. Full of years and full of honors he has passed away from the scene which he illustrated by his learning and virtue, leaving be-

hind him a reputation as much distinguished by the superior dignity of his character as by the extraordinary vigor of intellect which sustained and graced the closing years of his long, laborious, and useful career."

Ex-Secretary Chase, Judge Collamer, Secretary Stanton, Hon. J. Holt, Hon. Ira Harris, Montgomery Blair, and others are spoken of in the public prints as aspirants for the succession. No selection will probably be made for the present.

Legislative Proceedings.

TUESDAY, Oct. 18.

The day was chiefly occupied with minor matters of business and the choice of officers by the Joint Assembly.

Secretary of State, George W. Bailey, Jr., Montpelier; Sergeant-at-Arms, Z. C. Camp, Montpelier; Auditor of Accounts, D. Stewart, Middlebury; Superintendent of State Prison, J. A. Polard, Chester; Commissioner of the Insurance, E. D. Warner, New Haven; Bank Commissioner, A. R. Camp, Stowe; Railroad Commissioner, G. H. Rice, South Hero; Adjutant General, P. T. Washburn, Woodstock; Quartermaster General, Col. Percy P. Pitkin, New Port; Quartermaster at City Point, Va.; Judge Advocate Gen., J. S. Marcy, Royalton; Directors of State Prison, Daniel Stearns of Windsor, S. Merriam of Johnson, and Pitt W. Hyde, of Castleton.

In the evening the Representatives' Hall was crowded with ladies and gentlemen, to hear the annual address before the Vermont Historical Society, by the Rev. B. Labaree, of Middlebury College, and an elegantly prepared biographical sketch of the late Gov. Ezra Butler, by Rev. C. C. Parker, of Waterbury.

WEDNESDAY, Oct. 19.

SENATE.—Hon. George Thompson responded to the invitation given him, and designated Thursday evening, October 20, as the time when he would address the Legislature. There were several reports made and sundry bills introduced and referred, but nothing of general interest.

HOUSE.—Bill proposing to set dogs in the lot at fifty cents; to fix the rate of labor on highways at 15 cents per hour, and providing that highway surveyors shall hold office one year and make their returns to selection in February; to enquire into the propriety of erecting a monument on Mount Mansfield to the memory of all soldiers from Vermont who have fallen or may hereafter fall in subduing the existing rebellion; to dispense with services of one Judge of the Supreme Court and divide his salary among those remaining in office; to regulate duties and fees of County Clerks; to pay Col. Washburn for services as Adjutant and Inspector General; to repeal law requiring notice of intention of marriage to be given and substituting a record of such intention in the Town Clerk's office or of Registrar of Probate. These bills were introduced and referred. House ordered 1000 copies of Governor's Message and 500 copies of Quarter Master General Davis' report to be printed.

THURSDAY, Oct. 20.

SENATE.—Several bills were introduced and referred and a spirited debate on the subject of printing Rev. Dr. Labaree's Address before the Vermont Historical Society, was had in the afternoon. The motion to print was lost; yeas 7, nays 15. In this debate Messrs. Reed and Cadman favored the motion, and Messrs. Henry and English opposed it. The address was regarded as able and the motion to print it was opposed on the ground that it would be establishing a bad precedent.

HOUSE.—A bill was introduced providing that minors shall be held liable at law for dishonest or fraudulent transactions and when they attempt to escape paying just dues on the ground of their minority.

Judge Wilson, from Judiciary committee, reported favorably to bill facilitating the taking of depositions of Vermont soldiers in United States service; third reading ordered. The bill authorizing the Governor to appoint agents or inspectors of army elections, was debated, expense ascertained to be \$1500, and the bill laid on the table. Bill introduced providing that railroad corporations may at a meeting duly warned and holden, increase their capital stock not to exceed twice the amount; also by Mr. Wheeler of South Hero to demand a sworn statement of property owned from persons taxed.

By Judge Wilson of Bakersfield, a bill authorizing towns to raise money at meetings duly holden to pay not to exceed \$200, to one year's recruits \$300, to two years' recruits and \$400, to three years' recruits.

A joint assembly was holden for the election of Judges of the Supreme Court, Reporter &c. This election was, on motion, postponed until Tuesday Nov. 1st at 3 o'clock, P. M.

FRIDAY, Oct. 21.

SENATE.—Bills were introduced authorizing towns to prepare and publish a soldiers' record; to continue the Charter of Bank of Poultney; Joint Resolution granting use of Hall of Representatives to Miss Ellen Winchester for Shakespearean reading, was passed in concurrence. Senate adjourned to meet on Monday October 24th, at 3 o'clock, P. M.

HOUSE.—Bills to regulate fees of Probate Court were introduced, to regulate holding of school meetings; to secure proper examination of school teachers; providing that a Colonel or Major of Vermont regiment may take depositions of soldiers in U. S. service. Adjourned to Monday at 3 o'clock, P. M.

[The balance of the legislative proceedings for the week will be given hereafter. They are crowded out by our full report of the "St. Albans Raid."]

WAR NEWS.

KANSAS CITY, Oct. 23. A general battle has been fought and a victory won. Price's whole army is retreating rapidly south. Our cavalry are in hot pursuit. All together with Pleasanton's force, they number only 1,500.

This morning our line was formed five miles south of Kansas City at the Westport road. Skirmishing continued several hours, when the whole force advanced and heavy fighting ensued. The rebels rapidly fell back and formed a new line a mile and a half from the first position. An artillery engagement then commenced. Our infantry in the meantime slowly advanced.

The fighting was kept up for ten miles from this point, the enemy gradually falling back. Gen. Pleasanton then came in on our left and a grand charge followed, resulting in a total rout of the rebels.

When our informant left the front our whole cavalry force were in hot pursuit of the flying rebels, the infantry following them.

Gen. Blunt had command of the volunteers on the left, and Gen. Deitzler those in the centre, all composed of militia, who fought and behaved gallantly.

Our loss is not heavy; that of the rebels, judging from the number of dead and wounded left on the field, must have been very great.

FROM SHERIDAN.

A Great Defeat and a Great Victory. The Springfield Republican's dispatch says, for several mornings previous to Wednesday our army in the valley had been on the alert, expecting an attack, but apprehension had died away, and on Wednesday morning the usual precautions were omitted. It was a foggy morning, and the movements of the enemy were not discovered till they were close upon our lines. With hardly a moment's warning the rebels advanced against Gen. Crook's position in solid columns, pouring in a volley on flank and front. Only a portion of our troops manned the breastworks when the assault commenced. It was so energetic and deadly as to break the lines at once. The men were swept from their breastworks, like which the enemy came flooding like a sea, and swarming on, firing, yelling, driving all before them, they entered the encampments in rear of the works, where soldiers, scarcely awakened, were actually rising from their blankets.

The 19th corps was equally surprised, driven from its position, and fought retreating and partially broken. The scenery on the field, at this juncture, was fairly appalling. The left of the army completely turned, half the army of Western Virginia flying in dismay through the fog; the 11th corps, fighting more or less stubbornly, falling back and constantly losing in stragglers, the entire country about Middletown and beyond, in rear, populated with a demoralized soldiery, the crack of rebel musketry, ere they further up on the left toward Middletown; hurrying wagons, ambulances, caissons; the hiss and explosion of the enemy's shells from batteries just in front of the 11th corps; the appearance of defeat, impending disaster, most everywhere. Gen. Wright made an attempt to arrest the current, and by the aid of the 6th corps, partially succeeded. When the lines had reached the crest, just to the right and rear of Middletown, where a second stand was made, and when two terrible charges of the enemy were repulsed, nearly every field officer in the 1st division of the 6th corps was wounded. The suits of the contest were otherwise gloomy. We had been surprised and driven out of a splendid position; but lost heavily in prisoners; had lost 20 pieces of artillery, 34 ambulances, including all the medical wagons and medical supplies of the 19th corps and several headquarter wagons. We had yielded more than two miles of battlefield to the enemy; many of our best officers were killed and disabled and the killed and wounded were laid around.

A full. The enemy relinquished his attack, and contented himself with a lively use of artillery. At this moment a faint cheer echoed along the line to the rear. Gen. Sheridan, who had ridden post-haste from Winchester, was approaching. His appearance created wild enthusiasm. Beginning at the left of the line, he rode along the whole front of the army, waving his hat amid uproarious cheers. Retreat was stopped in an instant from that time until 3 p. m. Every nerve was strained to get the army into an offensive position, and at 3 o'clock the whole army, the 6th corps in the centre, the 19th corps on the right, Crook's command on the left, Morgan's cavalry division on the extreme left, Custer's division on the extreme right, made a magnificent resistless charge, which swept the enemy off the face of the earth before it everywhere. The enemy had actually begun to throw breastworks, and was preparing to dig in camp when this charge was made. He was driven back at a double-quick through Middletown, across Cedar creek, where he came from, and was there pursued by our cavalry through and beyond Strasburg. Forty-three pieces of artillery, some of them captured in Strasburg; also over a hundred caissons and ambulances, and caissons of numbers. Probably 1000 prisoners were picked up along the road. Two hours of daylight would have given the rebel army almost entire.

POTATOES.—People seem to be in haste to engage their stock of potatoes or in fact any thing else. Prices are tumbling, and the general verdict is "let 'em tumble," and we'll all wait till they get within reach at least. It was a remark of a shrewd business man of our place, (who raises his own potatoes), that the crop would be a failure in the market at 50 cents a bushel before snow comes.—*Calcuttina*.